



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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KWEISI MFUME
President & Chief Executive Officer

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Chairman, Board of Directors

February 16, 1999

The Honorable Tom Daschle
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Daschle: *Tom*

The NAACP, the nation's oldest and largest grass roots civil rights organization, is pleased to support **S. 6, the Patients' Bill of Rights**, and has made it one of our legislative priorities for the 106th Congress. This means that we will enlist all of the resources available to the NAACP, including the mobilization of our regional directors, our state conferences, our local branches, our youth and student units and our rank and file membership, to see that his legislation becomes law before the end of this Congress.

The NAACP recognizes that the dramatic growth in the number of Americans who are enrolled in Health Maintenance Organizations needs to be accompanied by an increase in accountability by the HMOs. Furthermore, Americans have a right to access to specialized medical care when they need it, as well as the right to emergency room treatment. Thus the NAACP is committed to working with you to see that the Patients' Bill of Rights is enacted in the 106th Congress, and that the millions of Americans who are enrolled in HMOs receive the medical treatment to which they are entitled.

I look forward to joining forces with you and others who believe that this should be a national priority. Please feel free to contact me or Hilary Shelton, the Director of the NAACP Washington Bureau at (202) 638-2269, to discuss ways to see this legislation enacted. Thank you for your leadership in this area.

Sincerely,

Kweisi Mfume
President and CEO

KM/ck

cc: Members, U.S. Senate

